

CLAIMS

1. Apparatus for conveying fruit and vegetable products, particularly grapes, comprising hopper means (2) suitable for receiving said products and screw-feeder means (6) suitable for conveying said products towards an outlet zone (9), characterised in that said screw-feeder means (6) has a variable pitch (p1, p2, p3, p4).
2. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said pitch (p1, p2, p3, p4) grows going towards said outlet zone (9).
- 10 3. Apparatus according to claim 1, or 2, wherein can be identified in said screw-feeder means (6), portions (10, 11, 12, 13), each one of which corresponds to a given value of said pitch (p1, p2, p3, p4).
4. Apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said portions (10, 11, 12, 13) comprise a first portion (10), in which said pitch (p1, p2, p3, p4) is about 200 mm.
- 15 5. Apparatus according to claim 3, or 4, wherein said portions (10, 11, 12, 13) comprise a second portion (11), in which said pitch (p1, p2, p3, p4) is comprised between 200 mm and 250 mm.
- 20 6. Apparatus according to any one of the claims from 3 to 5, wherein said portions (10, 11, 12, 13) comprise a third portion (12), in which said pitch (p1, p2, p3, p4) is about 300 mm.
- 25 7. Apparatus according to any one of claims 3 to 6, wherein said portions (10, 11, 12, 13) comprise a fourth portion (13), in which said pitch (p1, p2, p3, p4) is about 400 mm.
8. Apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said screw-feeder means (6) is arranged below said hopper means (2).
- 30 9. Apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said hopper means (2) comprises a hinged side means (4).

10. Use of variable pitch screw-feeder means (6) for conveying fruit and vegetable products, particularly grapes.
11. Use of screw-feeder means (6) having variable pitch according to claim 10, wherein said pitch (p1, p2, p3, p4) grows along a conveying direction (F) of said products.
12. Use of screw-feeder means (6) having variable pitch according to claim 10, or 11, wherein can be identified in said screw-feeder means (6) portions (10, 11, 12, 13), each one of which corresponds to a given value of said pitch (p1, p2, p3, p4).
13. Use of screw-feeder means (6) having variable pitch according to claim 12, wherein said portions (10, 11, 12, 13) comprise a first portion (10), in which said pitch (p1, p2, p3, p4) is about 200 mm.
14. Use of screw-feeder means (6) having variable pitch according to claim 12, or 13, wherein said portions (10, 11, 12, 13) comprise a second portion (11), in which said pitch (p1, p2, p3, p4) is comprised between 200 mm and 250 mm.
15. Use of screw-feeder means (6) having variable pitch according to any one of claims 12 to 14, wherein said portions (10, 11, 12, 13) comprise a third portion (12), in which said pitch (p1, p2, p3, p4) is about 300 mm.
16. Use of a screw-feeder means (6) having variable pitch according to any one of claims 12 to 15, wherein said portions (10, 11, 12, 13) comprise a fourth portion (13), in which said pitch (p1, p2, p3, p4) is about 400 mm.